

TO: Sen. Walker, Chair, K-12/Ed Budgets Sen. Pavlov, Chair, Education  
Sen. Caswell, VC Sen. Emmons, VC  
Sen. Pappageorge Sen. Colbeck  
Sen. Hopgood, Dem VC Sen. Hopgood, Dem VC  
Sen. Young

FROM: K.P. Pelleran, Michigan Director, and  
Executive Committee Members of America's Edge *Michigan*

DATE: August 27, 2013 10 - 2 - 13

SUBJECT: Common Core Standards for Michigan

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The Michigan business leaders of *America's Edge* work to strengthen Michigan businesses and the economy through proven investments in children and youth. We support evidence-based education models to help students master core academic content and develop deeper learning skills – communication, collaboration, and critical thinking – that Michigan businesses need to compete successfully in a global marketplace.

**To that end, we urge you to support continued implementation of the Michigan Common Core Standards in English language arts and mathematics and the aligned assessments.**

The standards are rigorous learning goals – developed with input from the business community – and expressly designed to develop the skills that Michigan businesses need. We also support assessments that are aligned with the standards, which will improve teacher instruction and student academic outcomes. The assessments will also lead to greater state and local accountability, as well as greater accountability for teachers. Through the standards and assessments, the business community will be able to track how Michigan students are progressing through the education system towards the goal of college- and career-readiness upon high school graduation.

Contrary to what some may believe, the Michigan standards are **not** national standards. The Common Core State Standards were developed by states, for states. Each state can develop, tailor and implement the standards based upon their specific needs – respecting state and local control over the education of our children. The standards do **not** dictate how teachers teach nor what materials they should use. Rather, the standards identify what a child should know and be able to do at the end of each year – such as being able to count to 100 by ones and tens by the end of kindergarten or analyzing foundational U.S. documents of historical and literary significance in high school. The Michigan State Board of Education adopted the standards back in 2010 after determining that these standards will improve education outcomes for Michigan children.

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Michigan should do all it can to ensure young people develop the skills Michigan businesses now expect them to have. Currently, 26 percent of our high school students do not graduate on time and, of those that do graduate, many are not considered ready for college and career. The Michigan Common Core Standards can help reverse these numbers.

The key to ensuring Michigan's competitiveness is having a pipeline of skilled workers. The Michigan Common Core Standards and aligned assessments are critical to achieving the workforce of tomorrow.

We urge your support for full implementation of Michigan's Common Core Standards. Thank you for your kind attention.

Sincerely,



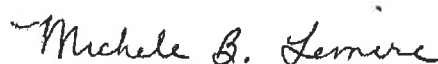
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